**The Crito - *Plato***

*Please read the following philosophical story from Plato, and re-write in your own words what Socrates says in each major paragraph.*

*Setting:* **Socrates has just been condemned to death by the people of Athens, and is spending the night in jail before he dies. Crito, a friend of Socrates, comes late at night to help Socrates escape. But, Socrates refuses. Here, he explains why:**

**Socrates**: As we have said earlier, doing wrong is always evil and is never allowed. In spite of the opinion of the majority of people, and in spite of the consequences, should we insist on the truth that injustice is always evil, even if we do injustice to someone who did something bad to us?

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**Crito**: Yes, we should.

**Socrates**: Then we must do no wrong?

**Crito**: Certainly not.

**Socrates**: And when we are injured by someone, we should not injure them back?

**Crito**: Clearly not.

**Socrates**: And should we do evil in return for evil done to us?

**Crito**: It is not right, no.

**Socrates**: Therefore, we ought not to retaliate with evil to anyone, no matter what sort of evil thing that person has done to us. So, is not right to injure someone who injured us, or to even stop an evil act by committing evil ourselves.

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**Crito**: I agree.

**Socrates**: Then I have another question for you. Should a man do what he knows is right, or should he not do the right thing?

**Crito**: He ought to do what is right.

**Socrates**: So if I leave prison now, don’t I wrong the people who wronged me? They citizens of Athens put me in jail, and it is indeed wrong. But, should I do what is right? Or should I give them injury by ignoring their law?

**Crito**: I don’t know, Socrates.

**Socrates**: Let me put it this way: I was condemned to death by the court of Athens. That is their law. This is the law of the state of Athens. But if I decide to leave this jail, to escape, then I ignore that law. I disobey the law. Therefore, I disobey the state and I do wrong to all the citizens of Athens. Do you imagine that a state can survive if any one individual can decide to ignore a law?

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**Crito**: I don’t believe so.

**Socrates**: And what if we said “but this law has injured us, and it is unfair. The sentence of death is unjust.” What if I said that?

**Crito**: Go ahead.

**Socrates**: Then, the state might say: “but, Socrates, didn’t the state protect your father and mother, and help them with a city with walls, and streets that are safe? Didn’t they then give birth to you? Didn’t we help you come into existence by helping your parents? And, when you needed to be educated, to grow up to become a man, didn’t we support your education, and pay for services, and provide food with our markets and our roads where food was carried? If this is all true, then you are not equal to the state. You do not have a right to injure us like we can injure you. Our country is more valued and higher than any one man.”

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